



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20463

VIA FAX (202-543-7686) AND FIRST CLASS MAIL

April 16, 2001

Joseph Sandler,
Sandler & Reiff, P.C.
6 E Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003

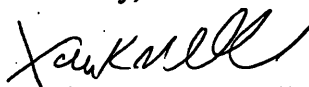
RE: MUR 4818
The Honorable Gene Stipe
The Stipe Law Firm

Dear Mr. Sandler:

As we discussed earlier today by phone, on April 6, 2001, the Commission denied your clients' request to enter into conciliation prior to a finding of probable cause to believe. Instead, this Office will prepare a probable cause brief in this matter.

If you have any questions, please call me or Margaret Toalson at (202) 694-1650.

Sincerely,


Xavier K. McDonnell
Attorney